

**Denis Dunne**

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**From:** cusp ireland <cuspireland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 21 February 2020 16:17  
**To:** wastecomments  
**Subject:** Proposals

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To whom it may concern,

I am submitting these suggestions on behalf of the Cork Urban Soil Project, a project operating under the Cork Environmental Forum. The project concerns itself with providing a circular waste management service. It is currently in a pilot phase operating in the Mahon Point Farmers' Market.

For more information: [www.urbansoilproject.com](http://www.urbansoilproject.com)

Kindest regards,  
Molly Garvey,  
Project coordinator

Response to Consultation Questions posed by DCCAE for the eminent Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.

## 2) Institutional Arrangements

Currently the market structure is built around private companies. While regulated by government policy focused on human health and the environment, the companies are still operating under a profit-maximisation logic.

A proposal for an alternative municipal waste management structure comes from a study of the San Francisco waste management system.

San Francisco has partnered with Recology, Inc. Recology is the exclusive waste collector for a fee within the city, while SF sets the sets and approves the rates that can be charged by Recology. The city provides oversight, research and outreach while the service provider develops infrastructure etc.

Eliminating the need for public procurement in this instance allows for long-term planning and simplified information gathering. The city has also introduced a rate-discount incentive based on the amount of waste a business diverts.

Connecting the city intimately with its waste disposal company allows for the city to have a direct say in the use of the resources created from the waste (such as compost or methane gas) and reconnects the ideas of waste and resource in the minds of city-dwellers.

This arrangement was put into place after a public vote in 2012.

SEE [LINK](#)

## 3) Municipal Waste

Civic Amenities Sites could transition into locally scaled [Rediscovery Centres](#).

Municipal household and apartment waste could be dealt with through a scheme similar to the [www.SFgasrelief.org](http://www.SFgasrelief.org) in which a free compost pail is given by the SF environment department to anyone who applies. The compost is then collected by Recology (see above).

#### 4) Food waste

It has been observed by the Waste Characterisation report 2018 that contamination was high in household recycling and that more education was required regarding best practices.

We propose that an educational lever is being lost by the removal of household and municipal waste to closed, remote processing facilities. By building waste repurposing, specifically composting, sites within city limits, an opportunity for tactile, tacit learning is harnessed.

The [Cork Urban Soil Project](#) proposes a model of waste repurposing that harnesses a multitude of soft and hard resources. It proposes a circular, community-scale, urban bio-waste stream. The model is being tested in Cork city. The bio-waste (food scraps and compostable PLA, RCPLA and bagasse packaging) generated from a weekly farmers' market (Mahon Point Farmers' Market) is collected and transported to a local aerobic biodigester where it is processed into a soil substrate in 24-48 hours. The soil substrate is treated as required in order to be considered a valuable input to urban and peri-urban food growing initiatives. Thus, the waste of one economic activity becomes the needed input of another.

Many thanks for your time and effort in orchestrating this consultation,

All the best,

Molly

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*CUSP - Cork Urban Soil Project*

[urbansoilproject.com](http://urbansoilproject.com)